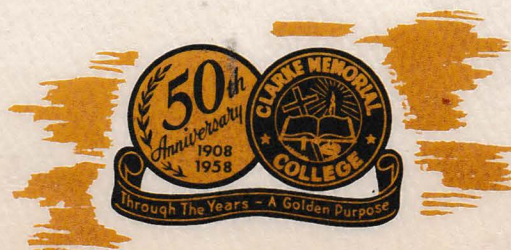


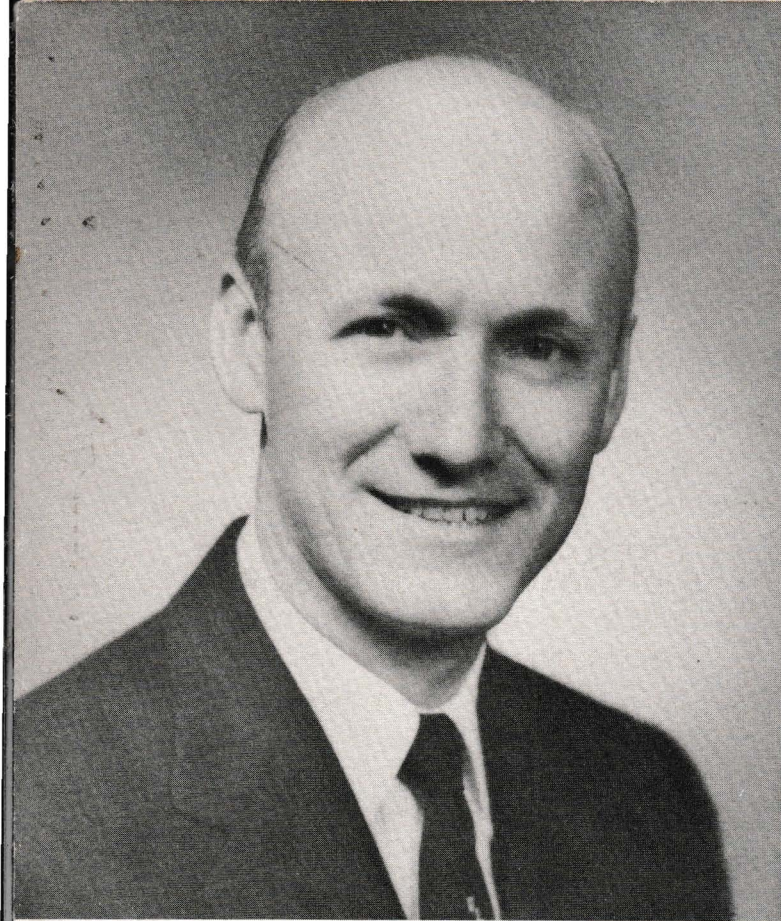
*Academic Building*

# *Through the Years - a Golden Purpose*

THE STORY OF CLARKE MEMORIAL COLLEGE • NEWTON, MISSISSIPPI



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**PERSONAL MESSAGE  
FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*The story of Clarke Memorial College is a story of  
a vision beyond apparent possibilities,  
a purpose beyond present attainment,  
and an achievement beyond visible resources.*

I should like to pay tribute to those who through the years have had a part in the accomplishments of this "School of Opportunity." There have been many of them and they have helped in many ways. They were trustees, members of administration and faculty, students, denominational leaders, pastors, donors of money, and friends giving valuable support with their interest and their prayers.

I hope this presentation will give some insight into the remarkable record that a host of people have helped to write.

Yours for a greater future,

*W. Lowrey Compere*

W. Lowrey Compere

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*"For the Lord of Hosts hath purposed—and His hand is stretched out." ISAIAH 14:27*

## *Through the Years - a Golden Purpose*

**1908 - 1958**

IN THE EARLY YEARS of the 20th century a school was born which was destined to render a most significant and distinctive service. But before the birth of Clarke Memorial College there was born in the minds and hearts of Baptist people in East Mississippi A GOLDEN PURPOSE—to provide for their youth an education under Christian influence that would prepare them for more effective service in the work of Christ. Founded by The General Association of Regular Baptists in Mississippi, the new school was named in memory of Reverend Nathan L. Clarke, who had been a prominent leader in the Association for more than half a century.

### **With Immediate Growth The Purpose Is Manifest**

The first session was opened September 22, 1908, with S. B. Culpepper as President, a faculty of six teachers and an enrolment of 104 students.

AR 865

*Dean Bryant, President Compere and Business Manager Baker in conference.*





*Boys' Dormitory*

The remarkable growth of the first few years emphasized the fact that a supporting organization larger than the General Association was needed, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention accepted the school in 1914. Following the resignation of President Culpepper, L. G. Gates served one year as Acting President and was succeeded by M. O. Patterson. Other presidents of the early years were R. A. Venable, Bryan Simmons, T. A. J. Beasley, and John F. Carter.

#### **Through Changing Patterns The Purpose Continues**

For eleven years the college was operated as a senior college, granting the B.A. and B.S. degrees. In 1919 it was decided that it should be a junior college, and since that time this has been its status. In its preparatory department it has offered the opportunity for mature students who have not finished high school to prepare for college work. Though the pattern

changed, the purpose continued. Clarke was accredited by the Mississippi Junior College Commission in 1926, during the presidency of H. T. McLaurin, being one of the first two schools thus recognized. McLaurin was followed by presidents W. T. Lowrey and John F. Carter.

#### **In Great Trials The Purpose Is Refined**

Clarke College has known many discouraging and distressing times. Two disastrous fires in the first sixteen years, serious financial problems, and a far greater need to meet than the supporting constituency provided for, all combined to produce tremendous difficulties through which very few schools could have survived. Several times the people of Newton answered the challenge in a heroic way and made large contributions to preserve the school.

During the stormy days of the early depression years the Convention, facing severe finan-



*Administrative Center and Dining Hall*

cial strain, discontinued its support of Clarke and voted to close the college. However, there was such a need for its unique service that the school continued to operate privately under a lease arrangement for fifteen years, until in 1946 the Convention resumed its support. Leasing the

property and serving as president during this era were A. A. Roebuck, S. L. Stringer, C. Z. Holland, W. L. McMullan, Freeman S. May, J. L. Boyd and W. E. Greene.

Only in eternity will there be revealed the full extent of the achievement of those whose

*Faculty Meeting*





*Lobby in BSU Center*

devoted and sacrificial service to a great cause kept the doors of Clarke College open through this difficult period.

In one of the great hymns there is a graphic picture presented by these words:

*"The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine."*

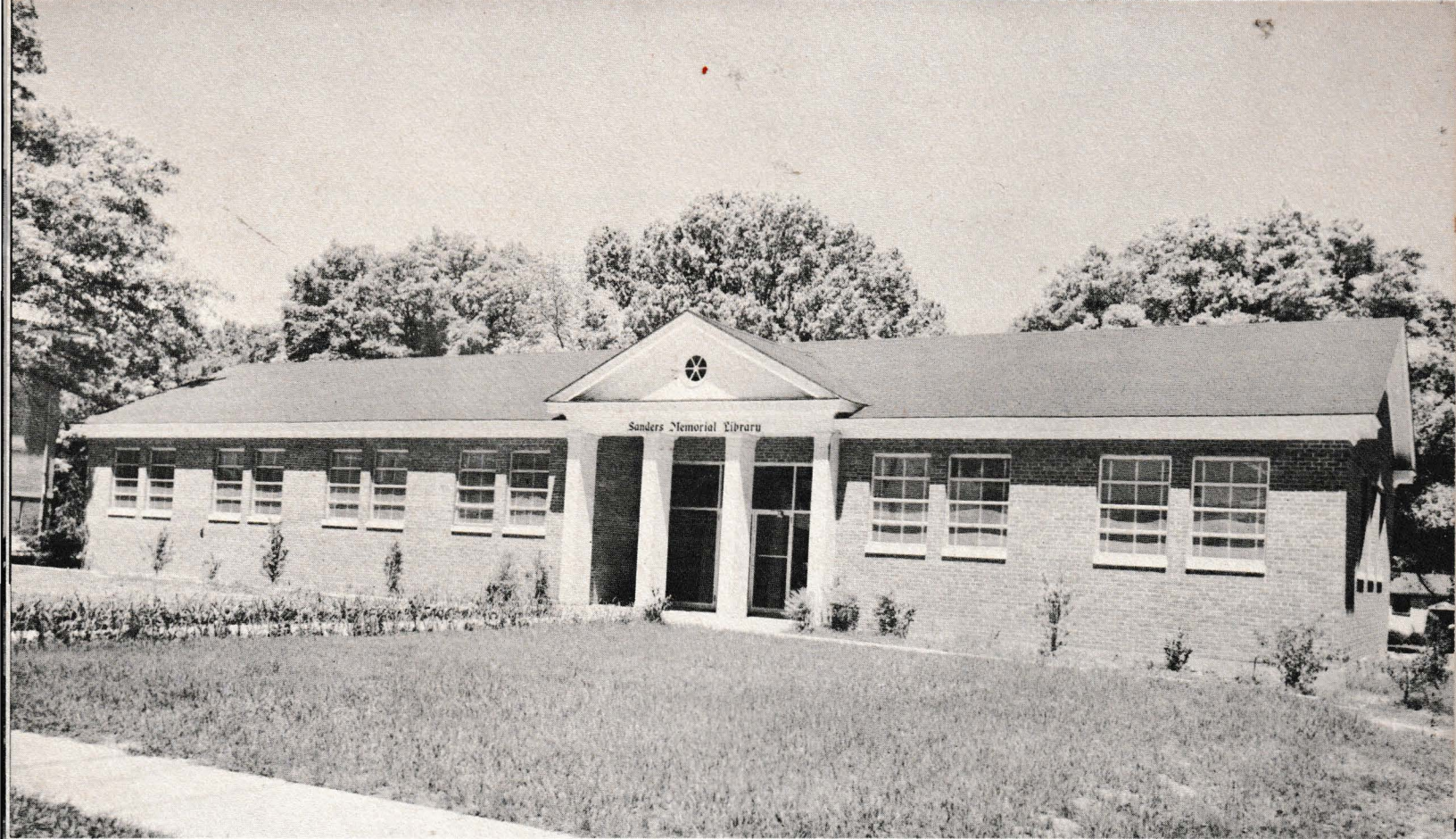
Under the guiding hand of God, it seems that the many trials and hardships have been used to burn out the dross of inordinate pride and to refine the gold of Clarke's triumphant purpose.

#### **Through Enlarging Influence The Purpose Is Extended**

Dr. William Earle Greene served as President from 1944 to 1954, the longest administration in

the history of the school. Under his leadership there was marked progress along many lines—growth in enrolment, increased financial support, new buildings, and a larger place in the minds and hearts of Mississippi Baptists. In 1946 the Convention took note of the progress and resumed its support of the college. During this time an endowment was begun, many new homes were built on the campus for faculty and students, and three of the major school buildings were constructed. Also, the college was accepted as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1952, thus attaining full accreditation.

When Mrs. Bessie E. Kent, of Forest, passed away in December, 1954 her will revealed two bequests which brought to Clarke College the



*Sanders Memorial Library*

*President Compere looks over 1958 Annual with Miss Geraldine Shehan, secretary to the president, and Mrs. Marlin Hicks, director of publicity.*





*Therman V. Bryant, Dean*

largest individual gift in its history and one of the largest ever to come to a Mississippi Baptist institution. Besides a specific bequest of \$10,000 the final bequest left the residue of the estate to the school. This residue consisted of approximately \$130,000 worth of securities which the trustees placed in the endowment. Throughout the years ahead this great friend will be living on in the enlarged work of the school she loved.

The administration of President W. Lowrey Compere began on January 1, 1955. The college has continued to enlarge its facilities and increase in favor with the denomination. Two new buildings have been erected and another which was under construction has been completed.

The Sanders Memorial Library was built in 1955-56 at a cost of \$45,000. The major portion of this amount, \$25,000, was given by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Sanders, of Aberdeen, in memory of Mr. Sanders' parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Sanders, of Kosciusko.

The Cockrell Gymnasium has been completed and named for Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cockrell, of Tupelo, who have given large sums of money to this and other phases of the work.

The new Girls' Dormitory was built in 1957 from funds allocated by the Convention as part of the Christian Education Building Program promoted by the Education Commission. Constructed at a cost of approximately \$165,000, it provides comfortably for 120 girls. It is one of the nicest dormitories in the state.

A strong and progressive academic program is carried on under the supervision of Dean Therman V. Bryant. Mr. Joe Baker manages the Business Office and under his able direction the school's business affairs are kept in a healthy condition. A competent faculty and staff and a splendid student body numbering approximately 300 compose a harmonious and happy campus

family. A wholesome Christian atmosphere pervades the entire campus and this provides the "plus" to an excellent educational program.

#### **Through Dedicated Alumni The Purpose Is Known**

The success of any school is measured by its alumni. Many factors enter into the accomplishment—buildings, administration, faculty, supporting constituency—but in the final analysis, a school is known and its success is shown by the people it has prepared.

Alumni of Clarke College are rendering significant service in many walks of life. Ten are

foreign missionaries under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, while others are serving as Missionaries in the homeland. Many of the Baptist pastors throughout Mississippi and other states are former students of Clarke. Numbered among the alumni are U. S. Congressmen, State Legislators, prominent educators, including officials in the State Department of Education, highly successful businessmen, staff members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and others who are distinguished in their fields. Many alumni are living useful lives as educational directors, ministers of music, school administra-



*Joe Baker, Business Manager*

tors, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, business people, nurses, secretaries, homemakers and in various other fields.

Clarke graduates have gone on to four year colleges and graduate schools for further preparation and have splendid records, having received a good foundation for their additional studies. They have discovered that the academic work at Clarke compares favorably with that of the senior colleges to which they have gone. Others have found it necessary to go directly

into their chosen vocations and their achievements reveal that Clarke has prepared them to render acceptable service.

#### **Golden Opportunities To Further The Purpose**

Since the school has accomplished so much with its limited means, how much more could it do if provision is made for larger and better facilities and more financial strength.

1. Additions to Physical Plant. Several new building units are needed in order that Clarke



*Student group in lobby of Girls' Dormitory*



*Checkout Desk in Library*

College may meet its challenge for the years ahead. Some of these have already been approved by the Convention on the recommendation of the Education Commission but will have to wait until funds are provided through special contributions. Others are in a long range plan for the future—

Administration Building, estimated at \$225,000.

Additional unit for Boys' Dormitory, estimated at \$35,000.

Fine Arts Building.

Science Building.

Surfacing for streets and drives.

An organ and several pianos for Music Department.

Equipment for Science laboratories.

2. Additional Endowment. The endowment has been greatly increased in the last three years, largely through the investments received from the Kent Estate and some from other estates. It now stands at approximately \$170,000. Actually, the school needs a minimum of a million dollars in endowment.

3. Student Loan Funds. Clarke has used very effectively a small revolving loan fund which has been built up within the last few years. Each

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THERMAN V. BRYANT—Dean, Registrar, and  
Assistant to President

JOE BAKER—Manager, Business Office

J. B. COSTILOW—B. S. U. Director

MRS. A. L. McGAUGH—Dean of Women

MRS. T. L. EVERETT—Dietitian

MISS GERALDINE SHEHAN—Secretary to  
President

RAYMOND ABERNATHY—Education

JOHN FRANKLIN CARTER—Bible

JAMES LEWIS CLARK—Social Science

PRENTISS G. COX—Science

MRS. ALICE COX—Librarian

WILLIAM BRYCE EVANS—Speech

THOMAS LAFAYETTE EVERETT—Science  
and Athletics

MRS. DOROTHY GILBERT HICKS—English

ARLESS JACKSON—Commerce and Dean of  
Men

LANDER GRESHAM KEE—Music and Chorus

MRS. MARY FARRELL KEE—English

ALLIE LEE McGAUGH—Mathematics and  
Biology

ODIE PASCAL MOORE—Bible

MRS. FRANCES W. TOWNSEND—Music

MISS JOE ALLYNE WESSON—English

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